

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to packages that can be used to merchandise a wide variety of different kinds of products, and more particularly to packages that resemble books. The use of prior packages that resemble books has been limited to a specific product or product category, such as clothing.

OBJECTIVES OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide improved packages that resemble books.

Another object is to provide book resembling packages that can be used to merchandise a wide variety of different types of products.

An additional object is to provide book-like packages that protect fragile products from damage.

Another object is to provide packages that look like books that can be used to distribute solid, liquid, edible, breakable and valuable products.

A further object is to provide versatile book resembling packages that are durable, secure and protective of their contents, economical to manufacture and distribute, highly attractive, easy to handle, ship and display, and which do not possess defects found in prior art book-like packages .

Other objects and advantages of the packages incorporating this invention will be found in the specification and claims and the scope of the invention will be set forth in the claims.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view of an embodiment of a book package in accord with this invention in closed position.

Fig. 2 shows the book package of Fig. 1 in open position.

Fig. 3 is a schematic perspective view of the closure member from the embodiment of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a schematic perspective view of the box from the embodiment of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 5-5 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 6-6 in Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 is a schematic fragmentary side view showing an embodiment of sealing means.

Fig. 8 is a schematic fragmentary side view showing another embodiment of sealing means.

Fig. 9 is a schematic fragmentary side view showing another embodiment of sealing means.

Fig. 10 is a schematic fragmentary cross sectional view showing another embodiment of the invention.

Fig 11. is a schematic side view on a reduced scale of a box from the Fig. 1 embodiment showing one type of packaged product.

Fig 12. is a schematic side view on a reduced scale of a box from the Fig. 1 embodiment showing another type of packaged product.

Fig 13. is a schematic side view on a reduced scale of a box from the Fig. 1 embodiment showing another type of packaged product.

Fig 14. is a schematic side view on a reduced scale of a box from the Fig. 1 embodiment showing another type of packaged product.

Fig 15. is a schematic side view on a reduced scale of a box from the Fig. 1 embodiment showing another type of packaged product.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The drawing shows a package 10 that resembles a closed rectangular book. In Fig. 1 the package 10 is shown in closed position, and in Fig. 2 the package is shown open and empty. Products or merchandise in the package 10 may be contained in an integral, sturdy, open ended rectangular box 11 that can be removed

from the package and used for storage or display of its contents after the package has been opened. The box 11 may be made from durable material such as hard plastic, metal, wood, fiberboard or ceramic, and may be lined with soft plastic or fabric to protect its contents and enhance their display.

The box has a flat bottom 12 that has a flat inner surface 14 and a flat outer surface 15. A pair of identical side walls 16 and 17 extend perpendicularly from opposite side edges of the inside surface of bottom 12. The side wall 16 has a flat inner surface 18, a flat outer surface 19, and terminates in a flat outer edge 20. The side wall 17 has a flat inner surface 22, a flat outer surface 23, and terminates in a flat outer edge 24. A pair of identical end walls 25 and 26 extend perpendicularly from opposite end edges of the inside surface of the bottom 12. End wall 25 has a flat inner surface 27, a flat outer surface 28 and terminates in a flat outer edge 29. End wall 26 has a flat inner surface 30, a flat outer surface 31 and terminates in a flat outer edge 32. The adjacent surfaces of side wall 16 and end walls 25 and 26, and of side wall 17 and end walls 25 and 26 are joined to each other so that their flat inner surfaces 18, 22, 27 and 30 define an open ended rectangular space within the box 11.

The package 10 and box 11 may be closed by a removable, integral, sturdy, rectangular protective cover or closure member 40 that gives the package the appearance of a book. Closure cover 40 may be made from stiff paper, cardboard, plastic or other durable material that can be textured and imprinted to resemble the cover and spine of a book.

Closure 40 has a flat rectangular front panel 41 that may have a flat outside surface 42 and a flat inside surface 43. Front panel 41 has opposite side edges 44 and 45 and opposite end edges 46 and 47. The outside surface 42 of the front panel is decorated and

imprinted so that it resembles the front cover of a book. Closure member 40 has a flat rectangular back panel 50 that may have a flat outside surface 51 and a flat inside surface 52. The back panel 50 has opposite side edges 53 and 54 and opposite end edges 55 and 56. The outside surface 51 of the back panel is decorated and imprinted so that it resembles the back cover of a book. Closure member 40 has a flat rectangular spine panel 60 that has a flat inside surface 61 and may have a flat outside surface 62. Spine panel 60 has opposite side edges 63 and 64 and opposite end edges 65 and 66. The outside surface 62 of spine panel 60 is decorated and imprinted so that it resembles the spine of a book. The side edge 45 of the front panel is integral with side edge 63 of the spine panel. The other side edge 44 of the front panel is unattached and is pivotally movable toward and away from the box 11 and back panel 50. The side edge 54 of the back panel is integral with the side edge 64 of the spine panel. The side edge 53 of said back panel is unattached.

When the package 10 is in its closed position, the closure member 40 closes the box 11. The flat inside surface 43 of the front panel 41 contacts the flat outer edges 20, 24, 29 and 32 of the end walls and side walls of the box. The flat outside surface 23 of the box side wall 17 contacts the flat inside surface 61 of the spine panel. The flat outside surface of the box bottom 15 contacts the flat inside surface 52 of the back panel.

The end edge 46 of the front panel 41, the end edge 55 of the back panel 50 and the end edge 65 of the spine panel 60 all extend beyond and terminate past the end wall 26 of the box. The end edge 47 of the front panel 41, the end edge 56 of the back panel 50 and the end edge 66 of the spine panel 60 all extend beyond and terminate past the end wall 25 of the box. The unattached end edge 44 of the front panel 41 and the unattached end edge 53 of the back

panel 50 extend beyond and terminate past the side wall 16 of the box.

Suitable means are provided for sealing the package 10 and holding the box 11 and the product contained in the box inside of the closure member 40. As shown in Fig. 7, a waterproof glue 70 may be applied to some or all of the surfaces of the closure member 40 and box 11 that contact each other so as to bond the closure member to the box. The glue 70 could be used to bond the flat outer surface 23 of side wall 17 of the box to the flat inside surface 61 of the spine panel 60. The glue 70 could also be used to bond the flat outer surface 15 of the bottom 12 of the box to the flat inside surface 52 of the back panel 50. The glue 70 could also be used to bond the flat inside surface 43 of the front panel 41 to the flat outer edges of 20 and 20 of the box side walls and the flat outer edges 29 and 32 of the box end walls.

In Fig. 8 the means for sealing the package 10 and holding the box 11 and product inside of the closure member 40 may be removable fasteners 71 such as screws, nails or staples that extend through the closure member into the walls 16, 17, 25 and 26 and bottom 12 of the box. In Fig. 9, the means for sealing the package 10 and holding the box 11 and product inside of the closure member 40 may be a transparent plastic film or membrane 72 that completely envelops the package 10 and is shrink wrapped to seal around the closure member and the box.

Fig. 10 shows another embodiment of the invention that is identical to the embodiments of Figs. 1-9 except that the box 11 has a lid 73 that closes the open end of the box. The lid 73 has a flat inner surface 74 and a flat outer surface 75. The flat inside surface 43 of the front panel 41 contacts the flat outer surface of the lid when the package 10 is in its closed position.

Figs. 11-15 illustrate the wide variety of products that can fit into a box 11 and can be safely and effectively merchandized in the package 10, and then stored or displayed in the box 11 during further use after the package has been opened. Fig. 11 shows that bonbons 76 or other delicate candy treats may be stored in a box 11. Fig. 12 shows that a necklace 77 or other valuable jewelry may be stored in a box 11. Fig. 13 shows that a capped plastic or glass container 78 containing a liquid such as wine, seasoned vinegar, shampoo, or hand lotion may be stored in a box 11. Fig. 14 shows that coffee beans or grounds 79 or other food products may be stored in a box 11. Fig. 15 shows that a framed award 80 or other printed certificate may be stored in a box 11.

While the present invention has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is not intended to illustrate or describe all of the equivalent forms or ramifications thereof. Also, the words used are words of description rather than limitation, and various changes may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the appended claims cover all such changes as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.